and such other things. I cannot give any assurance on that matter. But advice can be freely given. (*Laughter*).

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Those people are not to be paid, but an office will have to be maintained by the Government.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): All the details will be considered by the Government when the bureau is started by private agencies.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I request the Government to read the report of the Travancore Committee and then to form a final idea?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): The body known as Government has read the report.

FOREST AREAS—CLEARING OF.

76. **Mr. M. K. Devassy** (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to survey the possibilities of clearing and colonising some of the forest areas and hilly tracts of the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): A survey was conducted some 17 years back with a view to clear as much of the Reserve Forest area as possible and the question for a further survey now does not arise in view of the fact that a large extent over 8,600 acres of forest tracts out of about 13,275 acres surveyed and excluded are pending assignment.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Are there any applications for assignment still pending?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Yes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): How many?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): I want notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Are there not unassigned lands in Mattathur Village?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): There are everywhere. Not there alone. The difficulty is not with respect to the absence of lands but with respect to the absence of bidders.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Does the Government take any action on petitions sent to them? There are cases where there is no reply for years together.

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Petitions are another matter. These lands are given by auction. Some people want to take it on favourable terms. That is the difficulty.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): Is it a fact that the want of bidders is due to the exorbitant price which the Government demand?

Mr .K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): No, not at all. Our terms are very reasonable. It is only 3 annas 4 pies per cent. The hon'ble member is always confusing these lands with the Chittur kanom lands.

Mr. T. P. Poulose (*Kanayannu*): May I know what will be the highest rates?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): It will be somewhere about 6 annas and not more than 8 annas.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are these lands cultivable?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Some of them are wet lands. All of them are cultivable.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): What will be the average taxation?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): It will not be more than 8 annas generally per acre.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are there applications pending with either the Forest Department or the Revenue Department from the Depressed Classes for assignment of these lands free of cost?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Assignment to depressed classes are governed by other special rules. The Protector of the Depressed Classes, on behalf of the Depressed Classes, has to apply to the Revenue Department, and the Revenue Department gives each year so many acres of land for them to be given on license. That is being done every year.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are licenses issued with respect to these lands?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Yes. Sometimes in other areas also colonies are formed.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Is it obligatory that colonies should be formed if licenses are to be given to the depressed classes for these lands?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): It is obligatory. Otherwise they will be treated just like any other application on its merits.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Will the Government be pleased to assign these lands to the depressed classes on a low tharavila to be recovered after the lands are improved by them

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): That is subject matter of a resolution that has been tabled for discussion. Our position will be made clear when it is taken up.

PARVATHIAMS AND MENONS.

77. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(*a*) whether the Parvathiams and Menons who are now recruited are in non-pensionable service;

(*b*) when was this rule introduced;

(*c*) whether a Village Menon once in pensionable service if promoted as Parvathiam is entitled for pension?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1st Chingam 1099.

(*c*) Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): May I know when these village officers will be superannuated?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): At 55.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are there not Parvathiams and Menons in the Department who serve the Department after attaining the age of 55?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): In one or two cases extensions have been granted under special reasons.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): What are those special reasons?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): In one case which I remember where he was hale and hearty, it was very doubtful whether he should be retired. A reference was made to the Government. I had already retained him in the belief

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